



# THE OBSERVER

## SECOS Newsletter

Promoting and fostering an interest in ornithology by observation, research and record-keeping

## June 2024

### Field Trip

East Yorkshire Sun 9<sup>th</sup> to Mon 10<sup>th</sup> June



The itinerary includes Fairburn Ings for Spoonbill, Bittern and Bearded Tit, Bempton Cliffs for Puffin, Razorbill, Gannet, Tree Sparrow and possible Corn Bunting, Wykeham Forest for Goshawk and Honey Buzzard (if we're lucky!), and Blacktoft Sands for a wide range of species.

### Evening Walk

Wistaston

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June

A pleasant walk around 'Joey the Swan' - an attractive area of open parkland and woodland, which includes ancient trees and Wistaston Brook. The area is named after a cob swan that lived there in the 1930s, which became a local celebrity.



Joey the Swan - Flickr

For trip details, refer to the Chairman's Note email, visit the SECOS website or contact the trip leader.

## May Highlights (first reports this month)

1<sup>st</sup> Cetti's Warbler, Common Sandpiper, Common Tern, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Garganey**, Goosander, Grasshopper Warbler, Great White Egret, Green Sandpiper, Hobby, Kingfisher, Lesser Redpoll, Little Ringed Plover, Mandarin Duck, Oystercatcher, Pochard, Swift, Yellow Wagtail; 2<sup>nd</sup> Wheatear, **Wood Sandpiper**; 3<sup>rd</sup> Cattle Egret, Little Grebe, Raven, Red-legged Partridge; 5<sup>th</sup> Black-tailed Godwit; 6<sup>th</sup> Siskin, Tawny Owl, **Whimbrel**, Yellowhammer; 7<sup>th</sup> Common Scoter; 8<sup>th</sup> Red Kite; 9<sup>th</sup> Cuckoo; 10<sup>th</sup> Dunlin; 11<sup>th</sup> Ringed Plover; 13<sup>th</sup> **Sanderling**; 14<sup>th</sup> **Bar-tailed Godwit**, Egyptian Goose, **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Snow Goose**; 17<sup>th</sup> Spotted Flycatcher; 23<sup>rd</sup> **Osprey**; 26<sup>th</sup> Little Egret

## Sightings EHF/PHF/MGT/RF - May

Wildfowl	Count
Shelduck	regular, max 17
Wigeon	regular, max 6
Gadwall	regular, max 12
Teal	regular, max 8
Mallard	regular, max c130
<b>Pochard</b>	regular, max 2
Shoveler	regular, max 8
Tufted Duck	regular, max 4
<b>Garganey</b>	1, 5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Mandarin Duck</b>	regular, max 2
<b>Goosander</b>	1, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup>
Greylag Goose	regular, max 6
Canada Goose	regular, max 22
G C Grebe	regular, max 8
Little Grebe	regular, max 2
Coot	regular, max 13
Moorhen	regular, max 6
Mute Swan	regular, max 7



Common Terns – Dennis Swaby

Gulls & Terns	Count
Black-headed Gull	regular, max 6
Lesser Black-b Gull	regular, max c160
Herring Gull	regular, max 53
<b>Common Tern</b>	regular, max 2



Great Crested Grebe family- Dennis Swaby

CF = Crabmill Flash

EHF = Elton Hall Flash

FF = Fodens Flash

FFF = Fields Farm Flash

GF = Groby Flash

MGT = Maw Green Tip

OTF = Oak Tree Flash

PHF = Pump House Flash

RF = Railway Flash

WF = Warmingham Flash

WLF = Watch Lane Flash

**Blue text** indicates place first seen.

Underline indicates high flock count (see Feb 2020 Newsletter, page 8).



# Sightings EHF/PHF/MGT/RF - May

Waders	Count
Oystercatcher	regular, max 3
Lapwing	regular, max 12
Little Ringed Plover	regular, max 5
Ringed Plover	1, 11 <sup>th</sup> ; 2, 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Dunlin	1, 10 <sup>th</sup> ; 6, 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Whimbrel	1, 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup>
Black-tailed Godwit	regular, max 20
Common Sandpiper	max 3, 1 <sup>st</sup>
Wood Sandpiper	1, 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Curlew Sandpiper	1, 5 <sup>th</sup>
Sanderling	1, 13 <sup>th</sup>



Sanderling - Dennis Swaby



Whimbrel (with Greylag Goose) - Dennis Swaby



Little Ringed Plover - Dennis Swaby



Oystercatcher - Dennis Swaby

Hérons & Egrets	Count
Grey Heron	regular, max 5
Little Egret	1, 26 <sup>th</sup>
Great White Egret	1, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Cattle Egret	1, 3 <sup>rd</sup>

Raptors & Owls	Count
Sparrowhawk	1, 6 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup>
Buzzard	regular, max 11
Osprey	1, 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Red Kite	1, 10 <sup>th</sup>
Kestrel	regular, max 3
Hobby	1, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup>
Peregrine	1, 29 <sup>th</sup>
Tawny Owl	1, 6 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup>



## Sightings Elsewhere - May



Reed Warbler - Dennis Swaby

**EHF/MGT/PHF/RF:** Swift, **Kingfisher**, Raven, Sand Martin, Swallow, House Martin, **Cetti's Warbler**, Willow Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, **Grasshopper Warbler**, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat, **Yellow Wagtail**, **Lesser Redpoll**  
**WLF:** Common Tern, Lesser Whitethroat

**Alsager:** Swift, Sparrowhawk

**Alsager - Alsager Treatment Works:** Swift

**Alsager - Borrow Pit Meadows:** Willow Warbler, Whitethroat

**Alsager - Fanny's Croft:** **Wheatear**, Yellow Wagtail

**Arclid Area SQs:** Mandarin Duck

**Astbury - Astbury Garden Centre:** Sand Martin

**Astbury - Astbury Mere CP:** **Green Sandpiper**, Willow Warbler, Garden Warbler

**Brereton Green - Sandersons Brook, NE of Sandbach:** Yellow Wagtail

**Brereton Heath - Brereton Heath LNR:** Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Garden Warbler

**Congleton:** Red Kite

**Congleton - Mossley:** Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Whitethroat

**Congleton - River Dane:** Mandarin Duck, Goosander, Swift, Kingfisher, Grey Wagtail

**Crewe:** **Swift**, Blackcap

**Crewe - Quaker's Coppice:** Blackcap

**Crewe - Sydney:** Swift, Sparrowhawk, Blackcap

**Crewe - Wychwood Park, Weston:** **Cuckoo**

**Doddington - Doddington Pool:** **Snow Goose**, **Ruddy Shelduck**, Mandarin Duck, Pochard, **Common Scoter**, Swift, **Little Grebe**, Oystercatcher, **Bar-tailed Godwit**, Common Sandpiper, Kestrel, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Whitethroat, Yellow Wagtail

**Doddington - Lemon Pool:** **Red-legged Partridge**, **Little Grebe**, **Raven**, Skylark, Reed Warbler, Garden Warbler

**Rode Heath - Rode Pool:** **Egyptian Goose**, Mandarin Duck, Raven

**Sandbach - Elworth:** Hobby

**Sandbach - Elworth - Barlow Wood:** Blackcap, Whitethroat, **Yellowhammer**

**Sandbach - Moston:** Blackcap, Lesser Whitethroat

**Scholar Green:** Swift, **Red Kite**

**Swettenham - The Quinta:** Blackcap, Garden Warbler

**Walgherton - Lea Forge:** Blackcap, Whitethroat, **Spotted Flycatcher**

**Wheelock - Forge Fields:** Sparrowhawk, Blackcap, **Siskin**

**Winterley & Winterley Pool:** Oystercatcher, Cetti's Warbler, Blackcap



Carrion Crow - Dennis Swaby

This is a small selection of species seen in the SECOS Recording Area.

A full listing is on the website:

<https://www.secos.org.uk/sightings/>

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🕸 SECOS Blog (to read/record local sightings): [www.secos.org.uk/sightings](http://www.secos.org.uk/sightings)

🕸 Sandbach Flashes: This medium does not do justice to the images that Dennis Swaby captures at Sandbach Flashes. Some of the images have been uploaded to [www.sandbachflashes.co.uk](http://www.sandbachflashes.co.uk)

## Goyt Valley - 7<sup>th</sup> May



16 members travelled to the Goyt Valley. The weather was fine and dry.

52 bird species were recorded including:

Goyt Valley: Mandarin Duck, Redstart, Pied Flycatcher, Cuckoo, Garden Warbler, Common Sandpiper, Dipper, Tree Pipit, Sparrowhawk, Red Grouse

Derbyshire Bridge: Whinchat

Danebower Quarry: Red Kite, Merlin, Wheatear, Ring Ouzel, Barn Owl, Tawny Owl (heard)

Sparbent lay-by: Golden Plover

A hugely enjoyable day!

Mike Tonks

## Fanny's Croft, Alsager - 15<sup>th</sup> May



10 members an evening walk at Fanny's Croft. The weather was fine.

27 bird species were recorded including: Sparrowhawk, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Blackcap, Swallow, Swift and Yellowhammer.

We then retired to The Mere Inn for a drink. A pleasant evening!

Mike Tonks

## Burton Mere Wetlands - 19<sup>th</sup> May



Twelve members met in the car park of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on a bright, warm sunny Sunday morning. At the visitor centre we could see avocet feeding in the pools with black-headed gulls nesting on the islands with an oystercatcher, shoveler, tufted duck, coot and lapwing all in view.

We set off from the visitor centre for the Marsh Covert Hide on the Reed & Fen Trail, picking up an Egyptian goose standing on a fallen tree trunk in the Old Fishery Pool. We could hear Cetti's warbler, chiffchaff and blackcaps singing and, although well hidden in the vegetation, some were seen as they moved searching for grubs and insects. Our time spent at the first screen hide rewarded us with good views of reed and sedge warblers as they flew across the reedbed together with a little grebe feeding at the back of the pool. As we walked down the path to the Marsh Covert Hide, we could hear heron activity in the trees behind us with grey herons and little egrets making food flights back and forth between the reedbeds and the heronry. From the hide we saw black-tailed godwits, an unexpected pair of wigeon at this time of year, several coots and a great white egret flying over. Walking on, we reached the second screen and added pintail to the list, another unexpected duck. More little egrets, tufted duck, avocet and Canada geese were busy feeding. As we crossed the bridge, a common whitethroat was seen and heard. The Group spread out as we walked along the boardwalk and some saw a marsh harrier and common buzzard, while others had very good views of blackcap, sedge warbler and reed bunting.

>> continued

# Burton Mere Wetlands (continued)

The Border Hide was busy and a large flock of black-tailed godwits took to the air. Black-headed gulls were nesting on one island but no Mediterranean gulls were found. The only willow warbler for the day could be heard calling outside the hide. Closer inspection of the wader flock revealed bar-tailed godwits amongst the black-tailed with several knot and a couple of dunlin sporting summer black bellies.

After lunch we made our way back to the Visitor Centre, seeing a great spotted woodpecker fly across the boardwalk and back again into the trees. Some checked out the café for tea or an ice cream and, fully refreshed, we went looking for a yellow wagtail and a stonechat that one member saw earlier in the day on the shed roof past the bunker hide. Despite adding swallow, greenfinch, kestrel and goldfinch, there was no sign of the wagtail or stonechat.

In total we saw 56 bird species: Greylag Goose, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Egyptian Goose, Common Shelduck, Shoveler, Gadwall, Wigeon, Mallard, **Pintail**, Tufted Duck, Little Grebe, Woodpigeon, Swift, Moorhen, Coot, Avocet, Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Redshank, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit, Knot, Dunlin, Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull, Little Egret, Great White Egret, Grey Heron, Marsh Harrier, Common Buzzard, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Kestrel, Magpie, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Skylark, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Swallow, House Martin, Willow Warbler, **Yellow Wagtail**, Chiffchaff, Cetti's Warbler, Blackcap, Common Whitethroat, Wren, Blackbird, Robin, Stonechat, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Reed Bunting.

*Ian & Lydia Taylor*

**2024 SECOS Field Trips Total = 150**

## Diary Dates



**9-10<sup>th</sup> June**

Short Weekend Trip

**19<sup>th</sup> June 7.00 p.m.**

Evening Walk

**24<sup>th</sup> June 7.30 p.m.**

Committee Meeting

**East Yorkshire**

Leader: Mike Tonks

**Wistaston**

Leader: Derek Owen

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